

Nevada Early Intervention Spring Family Newsletter

March - April 2018 Volume 8 No 2

Message from Part C's State Family Resource Coordinator, Information & Referral...

Dear Parents/Families,

Every year the U.S. Department of Education requires all states to submit an Annual Performance Report (APR) in order to receive federal funding. As part of this APR states must provide information about families receiving early intervention services and family outcomes.

Nevada collects and reports information on three family outcomes related to receiving early intervention services. This report, following the perspective of family-centered services, covers families who are currently receiving early intervention services for at least 6 months and determines if families feel their providers have helped them:

1. Know their rights under early intervention.

2. Effectively communicate their children's needs.

3. Help their children develop and learn

Again, this Spring you will be receiving the annual family survey. Please take the time to fill it out and turn it in. We want the best information possible about the ways in which early intervention services may or may not have helped your family.

The results of this survey will help guide efforts to improve services and outcomes for children and families across Nevada receiving early intervention services.

If you have questions, contact us: ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov or 1-800-522-0066

Sincerely,
Dan Dinnell



Cheryl, Eric, and Dan

NEVADA's EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

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To receive the newsletter electronically and to make sure you don't miss out on useful information, contact us!

"Been there and done that!" — See page 2

Library — See page 3

Conferences in Nevada —
See page 3

An invitation to attend...

NEVADA'S EARLY INTERVENTION INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (ICC)

Nevada's **ICC** was set up to advise and assist Nevada in the development and implementation of a statewide system of early intervention services for young children with developmental delays or disabilities and their families. It is especially important to hear from families and we encourage you to participate. Tentative dates for the next few meetings:

Thursday—April 19, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. (Annual Face-to-Face only, in Las Vegas)

Thursday—July 19, 2018, at 9:00 a.m. (Video Conference)

Where: usually via video conference in Elko, Las Vegas and Reno.

Always check the meeting agendas for changes—posted at:

<http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ICC/Meetings/>

For more information, contact ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov or call Project ASSIST at 1-800-522-0066.

The ICC bylaws and membership can be viewed at

<http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ICC/Home/>
under "Who is on the ICC?", click on
Current Membership.

The Early Intervention Family Newsletter has opportunities to suggest and share... You are invited to submit articles, share your story, or include your child in a Family Spotlight, with a photo. (Subject to review & editing.)

Been there, done that!

Alysa plays Triangle with Front Ensemble
Douglas High School Marching Band



"In 2002, my husband and I started an unexpected and amazing journey with our daughter, Alysa. When getting the news that our child would be born with Down Syndrome, we had no idea where to turn for help, how to care for a child with a disability or what the future held for her.

When Alysa was born in March 2003, I thought "I can do this, I will figure this out." As the days and months went by, with heart surgery behind us, I noticed Alysa was not progressing like my older daughter did. Finding information about Down Syndrome was easy, but there was not much on how to get her to reach the milestones that were expected for children and the overwhelming feeling of failure began.

Luckily, I was given the information for Nevada Early Intervention Services (NEIS). The Developmental Specialists came to our home twice a month. I was given activities to work with Alysa which would help her reach the milestones that came naturally to other children. Alysa thrived, with difficulties at times, and became an active toddler.

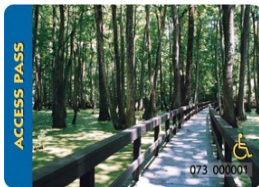
NEIS was instrumental in making Alysa who she is today. But, they also helped me to become who I am today. They showed me how to be an active part of my daughter's life and how to advocate for her. They gave me the Parent Handbook which had the information about my rights as a parent, how to advocate for my daughter and asking questions was how I could get help. I also found, the answer "no" is not necessarily the correct or acceptable answer, but patience and persistence may become "yes."

With the basics NEIS gave me to help my daughter, Alysa is a freshman in High School working toward her standard diploma alongside her peers. I question what is "typically" done for students with disabilities and persistently work with my School District to give Alysa the "typical" experience in High School. It has been a long and hard process, but the outcome outweighs the work as Alysa loves her school, her teachers and her peers with mutual respect for her.

Her future is bright and wide with everyone working toward the same goal - Alysa will succeed in everything she attempts, it may take time, but the expectations are upheld by everyone, staff, students and parents alike". - Ellen, Mom and Parent Advocate

Nevada Parent Advocacy Initiative: By Parents, for Parents—It's all the insider information about Nevada's Early Intervention Services System in one common place. This project consists of a parent **Facebook** (www.nvparents.com/fb) support page for families with children in Early Intervention Services, information to give parents the basic knowledge they need to access and utilize services effectively, and a website that shares with everyone. **Early Intervention Parents Nevada** is a place for all parents of children with disabilities to connect. Please post your personal stories, questions about your child's development and/or disability, questions about Early Intervention programs, great parenting articles you've come across, community resources and events at

www.nvparents.com



Vacation season is coming. . . **FREE** – All National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Access Pass

This is a lifetime pass for U.S. citizens (includes children)/permanent residents with permanent disabilities. Documentation is required to obtain the pass. The pass in most cases provides free access to, and use of, Federal recreation sites that charge an Entrance fee, as well as possible discounts on other fees. The pass admits the pass holder and passengers in a non-commercial vehicle at per vehicle fee areas, and pass holder + 3 others, not to exceed 4 adults, at per person fee areas.

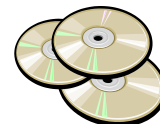
The pass can only be obtained in person at the park or from a participating Federal recreation site or office. For more information, visit... <http://store.usgs.gov/pass/access.html>



— For Families & Professionals —

EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION LIBRARY

There are a great many things to learn... check them out!!!



One of the resources available to **families, service providers, students, and teachers** working with young children with disabilities or special health care needs is the resource library. This large collection of books and videos is a tremendous source of information for parents and professionals in the care and education of a child with a disability.

"Parenting Children With Health Issues: Essential Tools, Tips, and Tactics for Raising Kids With Chronic Illness, Medical Conditions, and Special Healthcare Needs" – Does your child have a health condition which requires special medical or dietary care? Whether your child has ADD, allergies, asthma, cystic fibrosis, diabetes, Down Syndrome, developmental delays, an eating disorder, hemophilia or any other special need, you'll find essential parenting skills to respond to your child's emotional needs, help your child cope with health challenges, comply with medical requirements and live a hope-filled life.

"The Common Sense Guide to Your Child's Special Needs: When to Worry, When to Wait, What to Do" – If you have a child who is struggling, who is not meeting her/his developmental milestones, Dr. Pellegrino clearly explains to parents what are the next steps to take. – Section 1 entitled "Understanding Your Child," goes into details about common areas of concern – Section 2 entitled "Special Children, Special Needs," focuses on hearing, vision, and sensory problems. Also, Dr. Pellegrino has a chapter on Special Medical Problems where he gives information on basic health care of children with special needs.

"A Different Kind of Perfect: Writings by Parents on Raising a Child with Special Needs" – Every parent dreams of having a happy, healthy child. What happens when these dreams are shattered by a physical or cognitive disability? The writings collected here are grouped into chapters reflecting the progressive stages of many parents' emotional journeys, starting with grief, denial, and anger and moving towards acceptance, empowerment, laughter, and even joy.

"Autism in the Family: Caring and Coping Together" – How can parents provide the best support for their child with autism—and ensure that the whole family's needs are met? This book has answers with keen insight, reassuring honesty, and practical guidance. A practicing psychologist and father of an adult son with autism, Dr. Robert Naseef has both personal and professional expertise to share with overwhelmed families, weaving wisdom from years of clinical practice with candid first-hand insights on parenting a child from birth through adulthood.

"The Early Intervention Guidebook for Families and Professionals: Partnering for Success" – This practical guide is essential reading for both professionals and families of infants and toddlers with, or at risk for, developmental delays or disabilities. The Early Intervention Guidebook shows what early intervention looks like when it is based on current research, policies, and best practices. It focuses on how families and professionals can collaborate effectively so that young children learn, grow, and thrive. Specific components of early intervention evaluation and assessment, program planning, intervention implementation, service coordination, and transition are discussed in every chapter.

With hundreds of books and DVDs available for use statewide, contact your service provider or coordinator. If you have questions or recommendations for the Library, send an email to ProjectAssist@dhhs.nv.gov

Catalog at: <http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ProjectASSIST/Special-Ed-Library/>

Upcoming Event in Nevada:

Association for Education and Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired

AER International Conference 2018

July 25 – 29

Peppermill Resort, Reno, Nevada

<https://aerbvi.org/event/aer-international-conference-2018/>

New Award-Winning Online Instruction Supports Families with Toddlers with Autism
Family Implemented TEACCH for Toddlers (FITT) is a collaborative parent education and support model designed to help families better understand and engage with their toddler with autism spectrum disorder, and this free *award-winning* module teaches the FITT process and strategies... **read more**

<http://fitt.fpg.unc.edu/>

EI program information > http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/Early_Intervention_Programs/

NORTHEASTERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

* contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information

⇒ **Nevada Early Intervention Services—Elko:**

NORTHWESTERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

* contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information

⇒ **Advanced Pediatric Therapies—Reno:**

- **Community Play groups** every 2nd & 4th Friday, of each month. Lots of fun games and activities for the kids. For more information: 775-825-4744.

⇒ **Easterseals Nevada—Reno:**

- **Please join us at our next Discover Your Way**—The Discover Your Way program is specifically designed to meet the needs of children on the Autism Spectrum and with sensory and/or perception disorders. Admission is free for members, and remains the same for each Discover Your Way event at \$10 per child (1-17) or senior (65+), and \$12 per adult (18+).

⇒ **Nevada Early Intervention Services—Carson City:**

⇒ **Nevada Early Intervention Services—Reno:**

- **Family TIES** provides family support in filling out **Medicaid/SSI and other Social Services applications** every 2nd Monday from 10am-12noon at NEIS, by RSVP only! Call to RSVP: 775-823-9500
- **Friends of Special Children** - This non-profit has supported families at NEIS in so many ways both financially and physically. If you are interested, contact Gretchen Canepa at 688-0303 or GCanepa@adsd.nv.gov.
- **NEVADA Hands and Voices** meets at NEIS, usually the 3rd Thursday of every other month on the “odd” months, at 6:00 pm. Contact: 775-351-1959, or email: info@nvhandsandvoices.org

⇒ **Therapy Management Group (TMG)—Reno:**

- **Inclusive Developmental Play Group** at Early Head Start. Call Melissa McGovern at: 775-525-4072.

⇒ **The Continuum—Reno:**

- **Carousel Kids** is an inclusive childcare program. We also offer an intergenerational experience with elders from our onsite adult day program. For more information or to schedule a tour, phone: 775-829-4700.
- **Literacy Land**—FREE! Gently used books for children birth-5 years. Or donate to our lending library. Meet, mingle, borrow, share, read, enjoy with your friends at the Continuum! Also, look for our collection bins around town! For further information, please call the Continuum’s Early Intervention department at (775) 221-8054 or email at info@continuumreno.com. Visit us at continuumreno.com

SOUTHERN NEVADA EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES

* contact your Developmental Specialist/Service Coordinator for more information

⇒ **Easterseals Nevada—Las Vegas:**

- **Playgroups** on Fridays. Come Join the Fun! Call Jessica Hartley at: 702-329-0345

⇒ **ISS Baby Steps—Las Vegas:**

- **Inspired Discoveries Playgroup** welcomes children 0-3 years old in an inclusive setting. Please join in our fun adventure! Call: 702-586-3100

⇒ **Kideology—Las Vegas:**

⇒ **Nevada Early Intervention Services—Las Vegas:**

- **Yoga & Literacy Group** at Family to Family Connection, Cambridge Community Center: This biweekly class combines exercise and early literacy for young children. Interested families may contact their Developmental Specialist.
- **Explore & Learn Developmental Playgroups in Las Vegas, North Las Vegas and Henderson**—Weekly, inclusive community playgroups include engaging, age-appropriate peer activities for families of infants and toddlers with diverse abilities to support child development. Interested NEIS families may contact their Developmental Specialist.
- **Sign Language class at University Medical Center (UMC)**—NEIS staff provide this bi-weekly parent education class on communication skills using sign language to promote understanding between toddlers and their families. All members of the family are welcome to attend. Interested NEIS families may contact their Developmental Specialist.

⇒ **Positively Kids—Las Vegas:**

⇒ **Therapy Management Group (TMG)—Las Vegas:**

- **Milagros Escondidos** family support group, last Thursday of the month, starts at 6:30pm, at East Las Vegas Community Center located at 250 N. Eastern Ave.
- **Inclusive Developmental Playgroups**. Thursdays at Family to Family & UNLV Preschool. Contact Robbi Lucero at: 702-335-1666 or rlucero@tmgnv.com



Nevada’s Central Directory website, filled with information and resources, includes a “Links” page with all kinds of useful local, state, and national websites.

<http://dhhs.nv.gov/Programs/IDEA/ProjectASSIST>

